

**This is an excerpt from *ASMFC Fishery Management Report 29C: “Addendum III to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster”***

**2.1.7 Outer Cape Lobster Management Area**

**2.1.7.1 Minimum Gauge Size**

The minimum size for American lobster in management area Outer Cape shall be no lower than the carapace length identified in the following schedule. Carapace length is the straight-line measurement from the rear of the eye socket parallel to the centerline of the carapace to the posterior edge of the carapace. The carapace is the unsegmented body shell of the American lobster.

The 2001 year indicated runs throughout the entire calendar year (January 1-December 31). July 1st is the deadline for implementing regulations in all other years (i.e. 2002 – 2004) indicated.

**Outer Cape Cod**

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| 2001-  | 3-9/32”  |
| 2002-  | 3-5/16”  |
| 2003-  | 3-11/32” |
| 2004-  | 3-3/8”   |
| 2005*- | 3-13/32” |
| 2006*- | 3-7/16”  |
| 2007*- | 3-15/32” |
| 2008*- | 3-1/2”   |

\* NOTE – Outer Cape Lobster Management Area will implement minimum size increases beyond 3 3/8” at the rate of 1/32” per year until a final minimum size of 3 1/2” is reached, if, following an updated stock assessment, it is necessary to meet lobster management plan goals and objectives.

**2.1.7.2 Trap Reduction Schedule for Lobster Management Area Outer Cape (OCLMA)**

Beginning in 2002 and extending through 2008, a 20% reduction in the total number of traps allowed to be fished will occur in the Outer Cape lobster management area. An additional 5% reduction in the total number of traps allowed to be fished per year may be employed in 2006 and 2007, if necessary, to meet lobster egg production goals and objectives.

In order to control the expansion of fishing effort, an overall total number of traps allowed to be fished in OC Lobster Management Area (OCLMA) has been established from the sum of individual maximum traps reported by each OCLMA lobster fisher on Massachusetts (MA) catch reports in the year 1998. A reduction of this total number of traps by 20% will be implemented and resulting individual trap allotments will be defined accordingly during the stock rebuilding period. The starting trap allotments for each lobster fisher in the year 2002 will be based on MA 2000 catch report statistics. Allotments will be debited thereafter as needed by MA Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). Participants in the 2001 OC lobster trap fishery, who received a license through the MA DMF or waiting list provisions during 2001, and as a result, have no prior lobster fishing history (i.e. filed catch reports) in the OCLMA, will receive a trap allotment based on proof of documentation of the number of traps they fished during 2001. These allotments will be apportioned from a percentage of the overall trap cap, not to exceed 2% of the total. Those who received a transferred license with an OCLMA fishing history will receive a starting trap allotment based on that history.

**2.1.7.3 Annual Trap Transfer Period and Passive Reductions**

The annual trap transfer period will be January 1 – March 31. Trap tags may be transferred among OC lobster fishers to allow an individual business to build up or down within the maximum allowable 800 trap limit, however, a passive reduction in traps will occur with each trap transfer event at the rate of 10%. For example, if 100 trap tags are transferred to a fisher, the net transaction received by that

lobster fisher will be 90 and the overall OC trap cap will be reduced accordingly. The trap cap may be adjusted downward over time through active and/or passive reduction measures until such time that the fishing mortality rate is reduced to a level below F10%.

Each time a lobster license is transferred to another lobster fisher within the OC the trap tag allowance associated with that license will be reduced by 10%. No new participants will be permitted to partake in the OC lobster fishery without receiving trap tags through a transfer from those fishing within the established total trap cap.

A trap haul-out period will occur from January 1 through March 31 each year to assist in the enforcement of the trap cap. There will be no lobster traps in the waters of the OC during this time period.